## MINERS WHO ARE WELL OFF.

A VISIT TO THE COLLIERIES OF THE WYOMING VALLEY. pows in a Mine-Safety Measuree-The Mi-ner's Work and Pay-Saturday Night in Scranton-Good Looks and Good Secial Condition of the Miners-Education and Recreation-The Intellectual Welsh.

One bright afternoon not a very great many days ago, when the air was so crisp and biting cold that it was at first a source of inspiration and then of torture to be out of doors and above ground, a SUN reporter stood at the entrance of the Marvine shaft of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company's collieries at Scranton, and looked with a very considerable degree of interest down that frightfully black hole into the earth, through which, he was informed, he was soon to travel. There was a kind of indefiniteness about the probable extent of the hole, as the reporter looked at it, which was not at all pleasant despite the reassuring information which the reporter's guides colunteered. But the outside air had passed decidedly into the torture stage, and it was pice and warm down below, so the guides said. Pretty soon the elevator platform, drawn by a big cable, came up the shaft, sliently and swiftly, like a gnome, and ten miners, with black-ened faces, wearing dungaree clothes which were once colored blue, carrying dinner palls in their hands and having curious little oil lamps of tin fastened in their hats, stepped from the platform and trotted off to their homes. The reporter's guides were Mr. A. B Nicoll, the company's general mine foreman. of the Marvine mine. Following them, the reporter, with several miners, so that the party again numbered ten, stepped upon the plat-form. Mr. Nicoli explained that the law of Pennsylvania forbade more than ten people riding in any mine shaft at a time. The elevator platform immediately began to descend. Down, down, down it went, until the reporter quite gave himself up for lost, and all the sins of his life flashed before him according to the time-honored custom of sins at such times. When the elevator finally stopped the reporter was surprised to learn that he was only 400 feet underground. Nevertheless, it was the most tremendous elevator experience he had ever had, and he said so. What the reporter saw when he stepped from

the elevator at the bottom of the shaft was a big chamber hollowed out in black, shining coal; coal was above and below and on every side. At one end the chamber narrowed into two avenues, or gangways, each about twenty feet wide, and away down these avenues lights twinkled and seemed to mingle with strange, rumbling noises. The noises grew louder and more distinct, and it was seen in a minute that they came from a train of coal cars, heavily they came from a train of coal cars, heavily laden, and running by the force of gravity down a track on one of the gangways. The cars ran into the chamber and discharged their loads, severally, into a big clevator bucket which ran up and down in a shaft parallel to that by which the reporter entered. The speed of the cars as they ran down the gangway was governed by a boy who ran along gide and operated a system of brakes. After the cars were unloaded mules were hitched to them and they were drawn back into the mine along gangway No. 2, while another train rat-

them and they were drawn back into the mine along gangway No. 2, while another train rattled down gangway No. 1. There were six cars in each train.

The foremen led the way into a second little chamber which was warmed and lighted and served as a kind of office, and told the reporter some things about mines. The newspapor man asked, at first, about fire damp and so forth, and he was told that the Marvine colliery gave off a good deal of fire damp, and that he would see pretty soon the entrance to the place where eight men were suffocated in 1886. The conversation was thereafter confined to general topics. The reporter learned that the first thing to be done in starting mining operations was to make a very accurate and extensive survey of the supposed coal territory. Then borings would be made in a great many places with the idea of discovering the thickness and extent of the coal seams. If the ground was at all rich in coal probably half a dozen seams would be found, the last one perhaps 1,000 feet down, and varying in thickness from four to eighteen feet. Minutely calculated estimates have finally shown that the coal lands can be profitably worked. The shafts are sunk, and the "breaker," that is, the machinery on the surface by means of which the mined coal is broken and sifted, is erected. According to law it must not be nearer than 200 feet from the shaft entrance. There are few shafts around Scranton deeper than 1,000 feet, but is the Schuylkill and Lehigh regions of Pennsylvania the shafts go down, 1,800 or 2,000 feet. Then the seams of coal are "worked" successively. Cangways are cut in them branching out in avenues, cross avenues, lanes, and side passages, so that the mined case is a city in miniature, so far as streets are concerned, and as all the seams are opened the buried cities overton each other.

The comparison of the mine to a city seemed very apt to the reporter as he started into it from the office chambers with the foreman. And as streets and avenues cut across and branched off at every hand,

vory apt to the reporter as he started into it from the office chambers with the foreman. And as streets and avenues cut across and branched off at every hand, the mise seemed indeed like a veritable Boston. All the party carried oil imps of tin by long handles, holding the lamps horizontally, with the handles clutched like daggers, so as to avoid getting the glare of the light in their eves.

"The first thing a boy learns when he comes into the mine to work," said Mr. Nicoli. "Is to look out for his feet and his head at the same time as he walks along." The mine to work," said Mr. Nicoli. "is to look out for his feet and his head at the same time as he walks along."

The reporter intimated that he was perfectly able to take care of his head and his feet without any kindergarten instruction, but he bumped his head on a ledge of coal in the roof and slipped down in the wet coal on the gangway floor almost before he had the vaunt out of his mouth. The party stumbled dong, clinging to the sides of the gangway when the coal cars rushed by until they came to a closed wooden door. A boy started out of the darkness and opened the door, and as the party passed through they felt a current of air rushing after them. This was the first time that the reporter had noticed the mine air at all, and he was told that the air was constantly kept pure and circulating by means of great revolving fans, which pumped, so to speak, the bad air out of the mine and the good air into it constantly. After innumerable windings and turnings and crawling through narrow spaces until it seemed that if the mine was like a town the party must be going across lots, a halt was made before a miner working. The miner was in a little chamber off from the avenue like a city lot. Hie was drilling a hole in the coal with a diamond drill preparatory to blasting. Tons of loose coal, the results of former blasts, lay at the miner's feet, and a laborer was loading some cars which had been run into the chamber by lifting the great lumps of coal into them with his hands.

The foreman explained that a miner proper was a sakilled laborer. He was assigned to his separate chamber by the mine foreman, and worked there until circumstances such as the safety of the chamber, the quality of the coal, do, readered it necessary for him to quit it, He received 35% cents a car load for the coal mined, and six cars were considered a day's work. Few miners got out more than the.

soparate chamber by the mine foreman, and worked there until circumstances such as the safety of the chamber, the quality of the coal, &c., rendered it necessary for him to quit it. He received 95% cents a car load for the coal mined, and six cars were considered a day's work. Few miners got out more than this. Out of the \$5.73 which the miner thus receives for a full day's work he pays a laborer \$2 a day, or 33% cents a car for loading the coal. He also has to buy his own powder and fuse for biasting, the oil for his lamp, and other necessaries, costing in all about 15 cents a day. The miner thus gets \$3.58 for his day's work. His great drawback is a frequent inability to get cars to take his coal to the foot of the shaft. This forces him to work on short time. In loading the coal the laborer is exceeded to throw out as much slate as be can, and if the laborer sends up to the breaker a load of coal that is full of slate his wages are docked. For certain difficult kinds of mining, such as cutting a narrow passage through coal hard to be mined, where the object sought is the cutting of the passage and not the mining of the coal, the miner must report for work between 6 and 7 o'clock every morning. He can leave when he wants to, and the passenger elevator will run to the surface whenever ten men want to go up on it. There are watchers at the top and bottom of the shaft, to see that only ten men set on the elevator at a time.

Great care is taken to leave enough coal untouched in the seam to support the roof of the mine. The Pennsylvania law makes it a missemanner to leave a wail between the mine chambers less than 18 feet thick, and there is a class of workmen called promen. whose duty it is to continually erect timbers in the mines to support the roof. In spite of all these precautions a mine roof squeezes in every now and then, and numbers of lives are lost. But more men in every mine are killed and inlured by falls of coal from the roof than from any other more. Men and the danger from fire damp is greatest in

placard at the mine entrance, and he personally notifies the endangered miner. Yet the miner often pluages into the fatal chamber with a lighted lamp in his hat, and the explosion follows burning or killing him and his fellow workmen.

All this was told to the reporter as he stood watching the miner while the latter pilled his drill and the light from his smoking lamp danced in an unearthly manner around the black chamber. Other chambers like it, in which miners were working likewise, were visited, and then the party, traversing by a short cut the abandoned old workings of the mine, came upon the stables where were kept the miles which drew the empty care, into the miles which drew the chart of the miles on the transport of the miles are active to the shat. The miles are active the company of the kept the color of the shade of the miles of the pilled and they have to drop their heads so that tell when they have to drop their heads so that tell when they have to drop their heads under a lew roof. The result is that the hair on the tips of the mules' care is sail worn off. It is a query interesting to the Darwinian whether the mines might not be able to transmit this peculiarity to their descendants, and whether them, in time, there would come to be known to scientists a type of mules having hairless ears and living in mines. The foremen stated that they had never observed whether mules in the mines had hairless ears at birth or not.

The reporter and his gaides got back to the foot of the shaft in some inscrutable way, and were soon again on the surface of the earth. Then Mr. B. B. Atherton, the outside foreman of the colliery, showed the roporter the breaker. When the coal comes to the surface is the big bucket in the shaft it does not stop there, but is hauled un to a little round house on the top of the breaker building, and is dumped from there into a "crusher." Crushers are of variou

Siate picker, 52 cents; door boy in the mines, 55 cents; mule drivers, three classes, 57 cents to \$1.05; car mangers, two classes, \$1.25 to \$1.51; company men, who overhaul the car tracks in the mine gangways, \$1.51 to \$1.68; mine carpenter, \$2.15; prop men (some mines are their own prop men), \$1.98; fire boss, \$1.98 to \$2.15; inside and outside foremen, and general superintendent of all the company's colleries. The men are paid off as near the first of each nonth as possible. THE CONDITION OF THE MINERS.

THE CONDITION OF THE MINERS.

Though a description has been given of work in only one colliery of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, it is a fair description of work in anthracite mines in the Wyoming region generally. Everybody knows that there are three great anthracite coal mining regions in Pennsylvania, in the Schuylkill, Lehigh, and Wyoming valleys respectively. They cover 450 square miles of territory, give employment directly to 105,000 men, and produce annually about 35,000,000 men, and produce annually about 35,000,000 men, and produce annually about 35,000,000 tons of coal, though the product varies greatly even in these big figures. The key to the Wyoming region, which The Sun reporter visited, is the city of Scranton, and the Wyoming mines are often called the Scranton mines. The great coal companies here are the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, the Delaware Coal companies here are the company, the Pennsylvania Coal Company, and the Lackawanna Coal and Iron Company, it is not too much to say that the miners employed in the Wyoming valley, and especially those whose homes are in or near Scranton, bear a remarkably high reputation for prosperity and intelligence and general happiness of social condition. It would not be used. Perhaps, to assert that the miners of Scranton are, as a class, superior to the miners THE CONDITION OF THE MINERS. happiness of social condition. It would not be just, perhaps, to assert that the miners of scranton are, as a class, superior to the miners of scranton are, as a class, superior to the miners in the Lohigh and Schuylkill valleys, yet it is unvoid a clify of early beat brothers in other regions, and are generally regarded as prosenting the best aspects of the miner's social life. They are a peculiarly and a singularly prosperous people. About 30 per cent. of them they are a peculiarly and a singularly prosperous people. About 30 per cent. of them they conting the service of the man and other nationalities. There are few Italians, Polos, or Hungarians.

Though the foreign nationalities largely predeminate among them few of the Scranton minors came recently to this country, and the individual of the service of the service

to the night schools. Night schools have been established at all those grammar schools in the districts where the miners live, principally in the suburbe of Scranton. Hyde Park, Green Ridge, and Providence. The little chaps who go to these schools are about as cute and smart as they make me. A day school teacher told the reporter that the miners children were her best scholars, and that that was the verdict of the other teachers, too. Of course, the miners girls go to school much longer than the boys. They are fully as bright as their brothers, and they take high rank at the High School. The intelligence of the miners, as a class, and their ability to do brain work, is shown by the fact that there are many merchants and professional men in Scranton who were once miners, and more whose fathers were miners. One of the best physicians in Scranton was a miner. In the Welsh suburb of Hyde Park there is a street, so the reporter was told, most of the stores on which are owned and run by men who served their time in the mines. Some of the Welshmen now in the mines are preachers, and on Sundays they preach to congregations in the little towns near Scranton. And during the great strike of 1877, when the young miners were all upon the warpath, and there was a budding riot in the Scranton streets, the old Welshmen of Hyde Park formed themselves into a society for the study of the Bible, and the Bible they calmy studied during all that fierce time. That trouble, the only serious trouble which the miners ever made in Scranton, was wholly due to the fomenting of agitators whose home was not in Scranton, and the violent actions, starting the disturbance, of a mob of unknown roughs wno appeared in the city with the hope of prominent citizens, armed them with Winchester rifles, and when the rioters were about to begin work the posses shot the foreign ringleadors dead. That ended the riot.

The city of Scranton is remarkably free from crimes of violence, Mayor Eura S. Ripple's annual message to the Common Council, just written,

stinence societies, which are stronger in no place on the continent than in Scranton and throughout the Wyoming Valley. They have a membership in the valley of fully 15,000, and are the special pride and care of Bishop William O'Hara of the Roman Catholic diocess of Scranton. The societies have between fifteen and twenty halis in Scranton alone, and meetings are held thore every week for debates and literary exercises. At some of the halis there are libraries which supply the young Irishmen with good reading, and nearly all the societies take. The Sun and saveral periodicals. The work of the Father Mathew societies in Scranton is not merely temperance and literary, but also charitable. The societies organize benefits and give balls and public entertainments for the relief of some sick brother, or, more frequently, to help some poor widow and her children. The Scranton daily papers contained numberless advertisements of exhibitions and entertainments of this kind as the reporter read them recently.

But the chief thing in the way of a purely literary society which the city of Scranton can boast, and of it the city may well boast, is the Weish Philosophical Society. This is indeed a remarkable organization. It has about 400 members, all of them Weishmen and minors, who meet once a week in their spacious and finely appointed hall in Hyde Park to discuss questions of a metaphysical, literary, and scientific nature. Some of these Weishmen are most acute metaphysical, literary, and scientific nature. Some of these Weishmen are most acute metaphysical, not elected as the proposition on technical subjects which are simply astounding to one who expects to find in these miners coarse and uneducated men. Round the walls of their meeting room are library shelves containing 7,000 volumes, all standard books. The library is open to any one for reference, and it serves as a circulating library among the members of the Philosophical Society. Once a year a great is expensed to the proposition of the miners covered the like, flo ers. The miners are very charitable, and always respond liberally when, by permission of
the mine foreman, the hat is passed around in
a colliery for a distressed brother or an orphan.
A favorite method for raising funds for charity
is for the miners to devote their emoty powder
kegs to a committee, which sells the kegs at
good prices back to the powder companies.
There is now established by the Delaware and
Hudson Canal Company a permanent relief
fund for its miners, to which each miner who
wishes contributes a day's wages, the company
adding a like amount. About half the miners
have contributed to this fund, and only one day's wages have been asked from them since day's wages have been asked from them since the establishment of the fund in April. The fund amounts to considerably over \$5,000, and the conditions for its distribution are as follows:

conditions for its distribution are as follows:
In cases of accidental death \$50 shall be paid for funeral expenses; \$3 per week shall be paid to the widow for the period of one year, provided she remains unmarried during that length of time, and \$1 per week to each orphan child under 12 years of age of the person so killed for the period of one year mises otherwise cared for. In cases of accidental injuries not causing death, \$50 per week shall be paid to each man during his disability to work, and \$51 per week to each boy under 10 years of age during the period of three months if necessary, but not longer.

But while this singularly prosperous and induring his disability to work, and \$5 per week to each boy ander 16 years of age during the peried of three menths if necessary, but not longer.

But while this singularly prosperous and intelligent people thus join with great readiness organizations of a religious, literary, temperance, and benevolent character, there seems to be a strong aversion among them to becoming members of the Knights of Labor. The most careful and trustworthy estimates are that barely one-fifth of the Scranton miners ever joined the Knights, and that of those who did join many have since withdrawn. So the Molly Maguires never obtained a foothold in Scranton, and the workers throughout the Wycoming Valley have always seemed to hesitate about placing themselves in any position to be dictated to by scheming and unscrupulous men. Of course the remarkable prosperity of the miners cannot be attributed entirely to the fact that iew of them have had anything to do with the Knights of Labor. So the reason why there were no horrid scenes in Scranton in 1877 was not wholly due to the fact that but few of her miners belonged to a riot and murder society. But it will certainly be considered by thinking folks to be more than a mere coincident circumstance that the men who work in the Scranton mines are good citizens, temperate, frugal, and intelligent, so lew of them not owning their homes and having a bank account, that it is a disgrace to a miner not to own his home and to have a bank account, and that for ten years four-fifths of them have steadiastly disclaimed connection with Mr. Powderly's organization.

HAMMOND ON THE ANXIOUS SEAT. A Noterious Lenisville Cambler Converted

at One of Moody's Meetings. From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

at the ef Meedy's Mectings.

From the St. Louis Globe Democrat.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Jan. 39.—Nothing that has occurred in Louisville since the day the Rev. Steve Holcombe threw down his hand in a poker game and swore ho'd never touch another card, has occasioned such excitement among Louisville sports as the conversion of Josse Hammond, until a short time ago the most notorious gambler in the city, Josse is not an old man, but he has gone all the gaits. When this city was the Mecca of the gamblers he was a king bee. To him belonged one of the finest keno games in the city, and in his name was also run the toughest negrogame. Jesse's wealth was estimated by the thousands then, but a time came when the golden goose ceased to lay. War was declared on the gamblers and the houses were closed. Jesse was indicted time and again, always paying his lines from his plethoric store.

When Evangelist Moody began his work here some three weeks ago, Jesse Hammond and Major Ed Hughes. Chief of the Fire Department, having nothing better to do, attended one of the meetings. They went to scoff, but came away sobered. The next night found the two men on band again, as did the next and the next. Finally, when Mr. Moody called for converts a night or two ago, Major Hughes arose, and with trembling voice asked that prayer be offered for him. There was a moment's stillness, then Jesse Hammond got up, and with tears in his eyes prayed for the Major and himself. The scene was a touching one, as there were few who witnessed it who were not affected. Hammond seemed earnest in his conversion and says he will join Steve Holcombe, the gambler missionary. Major Hughes, the Fire Chief, has not yet professed religion, although he asks for prayers at each meeting.

The ushers have instructions to admit him at any hour to the Tabernacle, whether the doors are closed to the public or not. This morning he received an elegant Bible, with the leaves turned down at a number of panisages, to which his attention was specially invited. This afternoon he re

In the present mining difficulty any one can prove anything he wishes by any number of reputable witnesses. Unless you are ready to trust the fairness of the correspondent you might as well not read a report. The writer has been told, by men whose knowledge of the subject and integrity of purpose it would be foolish to question, that the mines are now being operated at a loss, and that the demand of the strikers practically means that the companies shall pay out money for the privilege of furnishing the men with work. On the other hand, he has been told by persons equally sincere that the companies are making money "hand over fist" by a double system of oppression and extortion which had aystematically reduced the wages of labor to the miner and raised the price of coal to the public. Both of these conflicting statements I have found to be true, or at least as nearly the truth as the op-

raised the price of coal to the public. Both of these condicting statements I have found to be true, or at least as nearly the truth as the opposing parties could see it through the smoke of the battle.

Before coming into the mining district I had a long interview with the President of one coal company and a leading director in another. The former of these, who remarked that his name had been made disagreeably prominent already, and requested I should not make it more so, devoted three hours to explaining the entire situation—the wages of the laborers, the profits of the companies, and the attitude of each in the present struggle. His statement of the railroad strike was almost exactly that which I atterward heard from John L. Lee and four other leaders of the striking railroad hands. It was that the Knights had refused to handle the goods of an elevator which employed non-union men; is other words, they had struck because the railroad had refused to join them in a boycott, though joining in it would have been in violation of its charter as a common carrier. Afterward the Knights had admitted their mistake and offered to return to work, consenting to the discharge of three of their leaders and the five crews who had refused to handle the "scab" goods. The company had refused to make any terms whatever.

pany had refused to make any terms whatever.

How COMBINATION MAY REDUCE PRICES.

The most interesting part of the President's conversation related to the justice of the anthracite coalcombinations. He made the startling assertion that the corporations had done a public service in combining. Instead of raising prices the combination had lowered prices. The cost of mining had been reduced twenty-five cents a ton by the operation, and the "conspirators" had given the public fitteen cents of the twenty-five. When I inquired how this was possible, he explained it as follows: Before the combination was made, all the individual firms tried to run all their mines, good and bad. After the combination, the poorest mines were shut down, and the others were worked regularly and systematically. Many of the expenses are nearly the same whether the mines are worked half time or full time, so that after the combination the companies were able to mine the same amount of coal at less cost.

PATERNAL GOVERNMENT.

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Another interesting point related to the distrust of the men toward the company and the difficulty of helping them. A few years ago he had proposed to establish a beneficial fund. The company had accepted the proposal, and offered to grant one per cent of the men's wages if the men would pay three-fifths of one per cent. When the offer was made the labor leaders told the men that it was a trick on the part of the company, and the plan fell flat. Finally the company decided to establish the fund by assessments. The mon at first complained and threatened to strike. The company again explained the plan, and said that all men who objected to the assessment could draw their wages in full. At first a great many of them did so, but the prejudice soon wore away, and the men paid their assessments regularly and willingly. "Sometimes," concluded the President, "a paternal form of government is a good thing." When talking among the miners afterward I found that the President was not mistaken about the popularity of the fund which he had established.

NO FEAR OP VIOLENCE. PATERNAL GOVERNMENT.

All the officers with whom I talked expressed themselves as not having the slightest fear of violence, though their proporty was the most destructible imaginable. Their minescould be flooded without trouble, and their "breakers" were "tinder boxes." Yet the men appreciated that if they destroyed the mines they shut themselves out of work forever.

"It is this destructibility of our property," said a director, which explains why we are unable to adopt the suggestion of some of the "able editors" and bring in now workmen in order to prevent a coal famine. If we brought in new workmen we would take away from the old miners the motive that restrains them, and our property might be destroyed in a night." NO FEAR OF VIOLENCE,

WHY ARBITRATION IS IMPOSSIBLE,

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In answer to the question, "Why don't you consent to arbitration?" the reply of the company's officers was always the same: "There is no one to arbitrate with. We can be held to our part of the contract, but the Knights cannot be held to theirs."

This point was insisted upon so often and so earnestly as to fully impress me with the fact that before employers will make it their rule to consent to arbitration the labor organizations must be given a legal standing, collect certain funds, and, above all, show that they value the honor of their organization as highly as they do its interests. This is a lesson which business communities have always been slow to Labor, with their raw recruits of uneducated laboiers, have not yet learned it.

WHAT THE BALLEGAD STRIKERS SAY.

WHAT THE RAILROAD STRIKERS SAY.

The first day I spent in the mining region I met J. L. Lee and a number of his fellow leaders in the railroad strike. Their statement of the origin of this strike did not differ materially from that made by the officers of the company, but they insisted that its continuation was solely the company's fault. The knights had consented to the discharge of return three of their loaders and live craws of men, in for an agreement on the part of a representative of the company that the rest should be reinstated. The company had repudiated its side of the agreement, the officer in question declaring that he had never made it. The company," declared Mr. Lee, "wilfully keeps up a war, in order, if possible, to destroy our organization. But they will not succeed. Almost every man whom they engage immediately leaves. They have to hire seven men in order to keep one. The men whom they do get are generally ignorant foreigners who make countiess mistakes. One evidence of the company's inscourity is the fact that it permits these new workmen to drink liquor when at their work. This it would not permit to us, and rightly."

Mr. Lee said that his order net only condemned all violence, but undertook to prosecute any one of the members who reserved to it. Regarding the common newspaper assertion that the strikes were kept up in the interest of the leaders, he asserted that they received no salaries whatever—simply their expenses when on duty. However, in talking with members of the order who were not officers, I found a common impression that the district leaders received wages as well as expenses when attending to the work of the organization.

The general impression that I received of the railroad strike was that the company had the matter in its own hands, and that the confidence expressed by the strikers was assumed. WHAT THE BAILROAD STRIKERS SAY.

II,-Glimpses of Mining Life.

Shenandoah was the first mining town I had ever seen. As I walked up the streets from the dopot I could scarcely believe that it was a mining town. I saw no sign of the "oppression" of which I had heard so much, and only one sign of the "degradation" of which I had heard so much, and only one sign of the "degradation" of which I had heard still more. This latter sign, however, was repeated every third or fourth store. The afternoon was one of the brightest and coldest of the month. The schools were just letting out, and as the groups of school children heuride past me i noticed faces and dresses and manners with agreeable surprise. Most of the children seemed in such capital spirits as they let the schoolhouse as to remind me of a small boy at home, who, one winter day when the schools were closed on account of the cold joyfully exclaimed to a friend of mine, "Don't you wish you went to school—so you wouldn't have to go!" have to go!"

MY FIRST MINER ACQUAINTANCE.

have to go!"

MX FIRST MINEB ACQUAINTANCE.

As I have said before, I could scarcely believe that this was a miners' town. The men I passed were clean, comfortably dressed, and fairly good looking. As I reached the main street a couple of sleighing parties drove by singing negro melodies and church songs. Stopping at the corner where a group of men were discussing the strike, I was soon talking with a couple of them, who were somewhat isolated from the rest, One of them was a man of about forty-flive or fifty, dressed in a dark suit of coarse goods, and wearing a fur cap. The other was over sixty, not quite so well dressed as his younger companion, but still far from seedy. I thought it very likely that both of them were small farmers, "cone to town to buy goods." But we had only been talking a minute or two when the younger man, in speaking of the strikers, said "wo," Fretty soon he told me that he had been a miner there for pretty nearly twenty years, but had always been an "outside laborer." His wages, he told me, were \$8.10 a week. When I asked him if he had a family, he replied, "Yes; a wife and two children; but one of them is fourteen now, and he is able to earn a little something as a coal picker." When I asked him if a good many of the men were not opposed to the strike, he first turned to his companion and said, "How is that, Jerry?" and then, gathering confidence, continued: "Oh, there are some who would rether keep at work, but most of them would rather stop if they think that they can get what they are striking for. We nil go together." When I asked how many of the men had money shead to stand the strike with, he said: "Well, a good many of the men had money ahead to stand the strike with, he said: "Well, a good many of them have a little saved up, but most of them have a little saved up, but most of them have a little saved up, but most of them have a little saved up, but most of them they can get what they can bouse, and some of them have a little saved up, but meet of them they can get when the s

HOW THE COAL MINERS LIVE.

AN INDEPENDENT AND CLEAR REPORT

OF THE SITUATION.

In the Heart of the Mining Regions—The Claims of the Ending Company—Pictures of Life and Taiks with the Human Guemes of Eastern Pennsylvania.

From the Caristian Union.

In the present mining difficulty any one can prove anything he wishes by any number of reputable witnesses. Unless you are ready to trust the fairness of the correspondent you might as well not read a report. The writer has been told, by men whose knowledge of the subject and integrity of purpose it would be foolish to question, that the mines are now being operated at a loss, and that the deman panies shall pay out money for the privilege of the strikers practically means that the companies shall pay out money for the privilege of the strikers practically means that the companies shall pay out money for the privilege of the strikers practically means that the companies shall pay out money for the privilege of the strikers practically means that the companies shall pay out money for the privilege of the strikers practically means that the companies shall pay out money for the privilege of the strikers practically means that the companies shall pay out money for the privilege of the strikers practically means that the companies shall pay out money for the privilege of the strikers practically means that the companies shall pay out money for the privilege of the strikers practically means that the companies shall pay out money for the privilege of the strikers practically means that the companies shall pay out money for the privilege of the strikers practically means that the companies shall pay out money for the privilege of the subject and integrity of the taken of the provided. The men spent a quarter of their wages for drink. But that that that was about all the had to depend upon. He had worked all the bad to depend upon. He had worked all the bad to depend upon. He had worked all the bad to depend upon. He had worked all the could not be provided. Four years ago

than a fourth were members of the churches.

HOW THE STORREEPPESS LODE AT IT.

Later in the afternoon I talked with several business men about the strike. They were the only non-committal men I met. One of them was a liquor dealer, and with him I discussed the temperance situation. He said that he sold a good deal of liquor on credit, but that he never lost anything, as his customers were almost all reliable men who owred their own property. In the great strike of '75, which had lasted nine months, some of the business men had lost everything; but he had lost scarcely anything. He would keep on giving credit for an indefinite while yet. When asked more specifically about the amount of drinking, he said: Less than there used to be. Instead of its being the young, u amarried men who drink, it is principally the oi-zer ones. The young men have their temperance societies and so on, and a good many of them don't drink at all. Once in a while the older men stop drinking. When I see a case where a man is spending money for liquor which he ought to give to his wife, I always help the societies along, and so does every man in the trade who has any conscience. I have getten about a dozen men into one of the sociaties, and they are doing first rate.

One Polish butcher whom I met was down on the strikers had lost all he had in the strike of '75, and this strike he wasn't going to give any credit at all. As he went on no waxed more and more bitter. These miners are a lazy, shiftless lot," he concluded. 'If they work hard they can make \$100 a mon in," When I repeated this statement to the fur niture dealer whom I next visited he demanted who had told me such a thing, and exclasimed, indignantly, "Whoever he was, he was it lier and a scoundrel in his heart." I used to work in the mines, and I have sometimes worked hard for a month, not seen daylight the whole time, and only earned \$15."

The CATHOLIC PRIEST.

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After suppor I called upon the Casholic priest, Father O'Reilly. I have rarely met a man who was personally more impressive—six feet two or three inches in height, a powerful frame, a large head, and features strong and well cut. His face was of much the same typic as that of Father McGlynn. It was a more severe face, yet it was marked with the same moral earnestness, the same breadth of synpathy, and almost the same magnetism. I had heard that he condemned the strike and yet had the rospect of the strikers. I expected to get from him a nearly impartial statement of the case. In this expectation I was not disappointed. I soon found out that his reason for condemning the strike was not that the dememds of the miners were unjust, but that they were sacrificing their own interests in order to support the "organization" and help out the railroad strikers. Regarding the wages of the men, his statements were quite similar to those made in our columns by Prof. Rossiter Raymond, except that he thought that comparatively lew of the miners averaged \$2.72 a day even for the time they worked.

When I spoke of the complaint of the miners that the Reading Company had systematically depressed wages, and were now paying the more than 25 per cent. less wages than in 1876, though they were getting as much or more for their coal, he said that this was true. "I have been a priest here," he continued, "for twenty years. Along about 1870, when the mining region was in the hands of a great many individual operators, the bost neen used to receive enormous wages. When roal was high as sive hundred. Nowadays it is a very rare thing for a man to make more than eighty dollars. In the old days, however, the work was not so steady, and the wages of the miners' assistants and outside laborers were not much greater than they are now. It seems to be the policy of the Reading Company not to let oven the best men make more than 270 or \$80.

When I asked him whether he believed the total cost of its coal right here in Shenandosh, and indefi-nitely mere down in Philadelphia."
Soon we got to talking about the social condition of the city. His statements about the drinking were very similar to those of the Methodist miner whom I first met. He said that in his temperance so-ciety there were about four hundred mem. It was at the same time a temperance society and a mutual benefit society. He feared that the

was at the same time a temperance society and a mutual benefit society. He feared that the strike would cause a good many resignations. It was among the young men that temperance was strongest. The awful number of saloons (225 in a place of 16,000) was largely due to the new foreign element of Poles and Hungarlans. "In some respects," continued the priest, "this is the most moral town I ever was in. The idea of you people in New York talking about the degradation of the miners is risiculous. There isn't a house of fill repute in this place, and hasn't been for two years. The last one that was open the miners blew up, and the one below that some of the women of the lown banded together and ran out. You can't show me another place of 16,000 outside of the mining regions that has such a record as that.

"Furthermore, you won't find a place anywhere that Sunday is so well kept as it is here. Every saloon is closed, and there are not a hundred families in the place who do not go to church." When we talked of how the people lived he said that even the poorest of them, except the Poles and Hungarlans, lived cleanly.

"Every day when the miners come out of the mine they take off their working clothes, wash themselves, and make an entire change of their clothing. And when they wash they don't simply wash their face and neck, but got into a tub and serue themselves all over."

THE YOUNG MEN'S CLUBS.

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THE YOUNG MEN'S CLUBS.

Just before supper I had met a young Irish miner who had asked me to come and visit his club that evening. Of course I gladdy accepted the invitation, and when I finished the talk with Father O'liefilly I went immediately to the rooms of the Friendship Club. I found thom in a good building on the main street, whose upper stories were entirely taken up by different clubs. My new friend greeted me very cordially, and introduced me to his fellow members. There were about claft or ten of these in the room to which I was taken, and a few more talking with some young ladies in the reception room. They were going to have a dance that night. Most of the young men were between 18 and 25, and were generally well dressed and good looking—that is, there was not a trace of 'toughness' in the group. The rooms were comfortably furnished, and, with the exception of the pictures, everything showed good judgment. Prominently pleasand on one of the walls were the 'Rules of the Friendship Club.' Of course I examined them with curlosity. They were strict enough to satisfy the straitest sect. Intoxicating liquors, tobacco, profanity, and cards were all prohibited under penalty. The card rule was new; the others had been in force since the establishment of the club.

Talking with the members of the club in a free and easy way, I found their views on most of the points which the priest had spoken of, and I found that the priest had spoken of, and I found that the priest had spoken of, and I found the most wholesome sentiment I had, ever met anywhere outside of a college towa. In regard to drinking there was a little baddeshness manifested, but one young miner, who rather pried himself on the liberalism of his views, said that any number of the men were willing to blow up a house which they considered a disgrace to the town."

THE APPEARANCE OF THE HOUSES.

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Leaving the club about 9's. I took a long wait through the town. It was a clear, moon-lit and starift night, and, in spite of the intense cold, the wait was theremaked in the land starift night, and in fact, I did not see a single residence which made the laintest pretence of elegance. But everybody lived as well as his neighbors, in a decent frame house with four cr five rooms. I could not help wondering whether the social equality of the place did not partially account for the unanimous condemnation of the vice which is condoned where only the daughters of the poor suffer.

A WALK THROUGH A COAL MINE.

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A WALK THROUGH A COAL MINE.

The next morning, in company with the superintendent, I took a two or three miles' walk through the gangways and tunnels of the Shenandoah City Mine. As we walked, the superintendent explained to me how the mining was done, how much the men were paid for each kind of work and how they lived at home. As he had worked his way up from the ranks, his views on all these points were worth listening to, he admitted the truth of what the pricet had said about wages now as compared with fifteen years ago, though he thought that a number of them still averaged nearly \$100 a month. He was perfectly frank in showing how difficult much of the work was, especially that in the narrow yelns. Here the men have to grawl along on

their knees with pick and drill and powder. In the larger voins, especially the "hammoth," which was thirty or forty feet thick, he explained how much skill and judgment are necessary to do the blasting, most of the mining is still done by the "contract miners," but there are some men who, no matter how long they mine, are never permitted to take contracts. If an accident happens through the fault of the superintendent, the company can be held responsible; but if it happens through the fault of another miner, no damages can be claimed. The company, therefore, is not responsible for the kind of help it employs, except in so far as it endangers its own property. The superintendent told me that in is mines there had not been a fatal accident in five years, and that the company took much greater precautions for the safety of the men than the individual coerators did in former times. I asked whether, with the improvements in mining since 1870, the cost had been lessened, and he admitted that it had, though he added that so much had been expended in securing better ventilation, &c., that the difference was scarcely appreciable. This, however, answered a fundamental question, and showed that wages had not been reduced in order that profits might not be. Prices, to say the least, had remained the same; yet wages had been steadily lowered.

In the course of his talk the superintendent made one strong point in behalf of the present refirme. In the old days, when the individual operators worked on leases, their only aim was to mine the greatest possible amount of coal within the period of the lease. The mines were therefore "scourged." The cream was taken, and thousands of tons would be left buried forever in the depths of the mountain. The present company first tunnels its gangway clear to the other side of the mountain, and then works back systematically, taking every bit of coal with it as it comes.

THE POLISH BOARDING HOUSE.

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After the long walk through the mine, I visited the Polish and Hungarian boarding houses, managing to obtain a Polish guide who could speak a little English. In this I was exceptionally fortunate, as these ignorant immigrants are intensely suspicious of American visitors. One young fellow, who had been a miner, told me that on one occasion he had visited a dozen of the houses, looking for different men, but nowhere could he obtain admission, as the people always denied any knowledge of the men he asked for: they thought perhaps he was a constable.

was a constable.

In the first of those boarding houses to which
I was taken, a scantily clad woman of 30, with
a baby in her arms, was sitting upon a soiled I was taken, a scantily clad woman of 30, with a baby in her arms, was sitting upon a soiled bed, and eight or ten young ones were standing in different parts of the hall. My guide spoke to the husband of the woman, and he consented to have me look through the house. The floor was bare and dirty. On the stove some scup bones were cooking. Near by there were several batches of dough ready to be put to bake in the little brick oven outside. On the walls were a few cheap cuts of Popes and saints. The only other furniture consisted of four or fire cheap chairs. In this particular house there was no room for him—there being fifteen boarders, and the house having only three rooms, and one of these only half a room!

The way in which these people live is this: Each of the boarders pays the woman \$2 a month for room rent, cooking, and washing, the situation, however, is not so hard as it would at first seem. The house rent costs her but \$4.50 a month; the washing costs her next to nothing; and she cooks but one meal a day. The month's provisions are ordered all together, and family and boarders divide the bill fairly. Usually it is phenomenally small, being never more than \$5 a month apiece, and often as low as \$3. What little meat they cat is always the cheapest. Often they so to the butcher's, and get for five or ten cents the feet of a cow or the head of a sheep, and then make soup for two or three days. Their one cooked meal is at night. Their next day's breakfast and lunch is portioned out to them before they go to sleep (three in a bed, and a narrow one at that) in their comfortless and dirty loft. It is against the competition of men who live like this that the American workingmen protest.

THE AMERICAN MINERS-THE COMPANY'S HOUSES

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THEAMERICAN MINERS—THE COMPANT'S HOUSES

Shenandoah is not cursed by the truck system. There are no "company stores," and not. a great many company houses. In fact, one of the complaints which the Catholic priest made against the Reading Company was that it required to build more houses. The second afternoon I was in the town I visited a number of the miners' homes. One of my reasons for doing this was to find out how the women regarded the strike. I had put the question to the priest, and he had humorously replied: "The women are against it to a man." I was not surprised to hear this, but thought that I would find out for myself how the matter stood. Going to the section where the company's houses were, I was well received. The men talked very freely, and their wives occasionally joined in the conversation. I heard any number of complaints, but only a few against the company as a landlord. The houses, which uniformly rented for \$9 a month, consisted of four rooms, and were kept in decent repair. The men were so far from expecting any oppression from the company that they did not expect the company to try to evict them for not paying their rent in case the strike was prolonged. Only one of the men suggested that the company couldn't do it if it wanted to.

There was another point in which the dealings of the corporation were evidently far from heartless. The men bought coal at \$1.75 and \$2 a ton—a dollar less than the market price.

The houses of the men were decently furnished and decently kept. In the front room there was always a carpet, but no firs; in the back room a fire and no carpet. The men whom I met all spoke of drinking when they could afford it. And one of them said that when he came out of the mine he needed a little drink of whiskey to take away the dead feeling and make him able to enjoy his evening. The wife of this man spoke of the work more decently in the practice, but said that her husband never drank which meant. "You talk too much."

much. This same woman, by the way, began once to condemn the strike, but her husband shut her off by some indistinct word and a look which meant, "You talk too much."

It was quite obvious from the talks I had that most of the wives were mildly opposed to the strike, though I was told that a good many of the Irishwomen said they would live on potato peolings before they would have their men go to work at the old wages.

The food which the American miners eat is very simple. In the morning they have a little hot coffee and some bread before leaving for their work, and they have very little meat at their midday lunches. The meal of the day is supper. Then they have not only vegetables, but mutton or pork or sometimes beef. Taking all in all, the miners of Shenandoah (always excepting the Poles and Hungarians) are a superior class of laborers, who still live decently, and whose "oppression" consists mainly in the fact that they find matters growing worse instead of better.

## GOSSIP OF THE BALL PLAYERS

NEW SCHEME PROPOSED FOR A DOUBLE UMPIRE SYSTEM.

The Bleaching Boards Hust Go-Cinetunest Makes the Start in the New Reform-Some News About the Cleveland Club, The bleaching boards on base ball grounds of late years have been as much to the grounds as the diamond itself, and no base ball ground has been considered complete without them. It is there that people sit in the broiling sun. with the thermometer dancing around the 100° mark, or in the rain, to watch the national game. They are the uncovered and unreserved eats common to all ball grounds. A revolution is now going on by which these famous bleaching boards are to be known no more. No longer will the umpire be able to decide by the spectators on these exposed seats when it is time to call the game on account of rain. It

tators keep their seats a game must go on, no matter how hard it may rain. The Cincinnati Club is the first to strike a blow at the bloaching boards. The managers said the other day: "There are to be no bleaching boards at the Cincinnati grounds this coming season, as the free stands are to be covered so as to protect the spectators from the sun." This news has been halled with delight by the base ball lovers in Cincinnati, while the cry from all the other base ball cities is, "Let the good work go on." The fact that the American Association was the first to make the move toward this much needed improvement is a credit to it, and it is only another move in which the League will

is a well-known fact that as long as the spec-

be forced to follow.

When the admission price to the American Association games was increased, the managers of one or two of the clubs set to work forming plans for giving their patrons better hall and better accommodations for their money. The Brooklyn managers strengthened their team. but owing to the situation of their grounds and stands it will not be an easy matter to cover the bleaching boards. Other clubs of the Association will follow the lead of the Cincinnation men, and cover their bleaching boards as far as possible. Many times hast season the bleaching board spectators at the Polo grounds showed their willingness to start a subscription toward a cover for their favorite seats, but for the want of a leader nothing ever came of it. When 50 cents is paid for a game of ball some accommodution should be made for the spectator in the shape of protection from the sun.

Much has been said about high-salaried ball teams during the past two or three years, and Detroit has received the credit of the highest-priced team, while in reality New York paid priced team, while in reality New York paid more money to its players last season than Detroit did. President Day was asked yesterday what the salary list of the New York Club was last year, and he said: "We did not reach \$50,000, but we were so near it that this sum could be named without being greatly out of the way. This, you must understand, consisted of players salaries, and was brought about by the inrage number of men that we carried through the season. The individual salaries of the Detroit team were therefore, according to Mr. Day, higher than those of the New Yorks, but as a total the New Yorks paid more. From the looks of things at the present time the salary roll of the New York Club next season will be nearer \$60,000 than \$50,000.

The double umpire system may yet be adopted by the League, but not on the following plan published in the Indianapolis Journal: "President Brush is a strong advocate of the double published in the Indianapolis Journal: "President Brush is a strong advocate of the double umpire system, and is anxious to see it adopted by the League. When he was in Washington resently he branched the subject to President Young, and indeed endeavored to persude that official to use his influence for the adoption of such a measure. Mr. Young thought the idea a good one, but expressed some floubts as to the probability of its adoption by the League, as it would entail an expense about as heavy as the Association had shouldered in securing the big quartet—Gaffney, McQuade, Doescher, and Ferguson. The reason the League had allowed Gaffney and Doescher to get away was because it considered the salaries they ask as exorbitant. The quartat named, it is supposed, receive salaries of about \$2,200 each, and if the League should secure eight umpires in order to operate the double system, paying them salaries of \$1,200 or \$1,000 each, it would mean an expense as heavy as the Association with its four stars. Then Mr. Brush made to the League President this suggestion: That the League engage four regular umpires as hitherto, and that in addition Mr. Young appoint a staff of three umpires in each League city, one of whom should be chosen by the visiting captain to not as assistant umpire in the game. The regular umpire would officiate behind the plate, calling balls and strikes, and the local umpires would be paid an annual salary, and the local appointees should receive \$4 or \$5 per game. This would save the League about \$2,000, or even more, as contrasted with the expense of a corpe of eight regular umpires. To offset any tendency of a local umpire to show partiality to the home club, would be the fact that there were three such appointees in each city, and the visiting captain the privileged to were three such appointees in each city, and the visiting captain would be privileged to choose between them. The one who made the best reputation for fairness would, of course, be chosen the most frequently, and would make the most money out of the situation."

The one great fault about this is that two

whichey to take away the dead feeling and of this man stock pather that spread of this man stock pather that spread of the series once to condent the strice, but her husband never drank once to condent the strice, but her husband and the process of the series of the s